

Joseph W. Wescott II (Joe) was appointed Legislative Director of the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) in August 2015. Previous to that, he served four years as NASAA President and Vice President, while simultaneously working on the NASAA Legislative Committee. Wescott was appointed Executive Director of the North Carolina State Approving Agency (NCSAA) in Raleigh North Carolina on September 14, 2009 by the UNC System Board of Governors, at the recommendation of then system president Erskine Bowles. The fourth Executive Director since the agency was established in 1947; Dr. Wescott had previously served three years as an agency program specialist. As Executive Director, he oversees over 400 higher education institutions and training establishments throughout North Carolina, ensuring quality educational programming for veterans and their eligible dependents. Prior to his appointment, Wescott served in various leadership roles in higher education including director of the office of Planning, Policy and Evaluation at Brunswick Community College, federal relations analyst/government relations representative for Duke University and an adjunct instructor at several colleges and professional organizations. Dr. Wescott is a veteran, having served on active duty as a combat officer in the US Army. Earlier, he attended Wake Forest University on a four year Army ROTC scholarship, graduating with honors. He holds advanced degrees from Wake Forest University and North Carolina State University, including the doctorate in Higher Education Administration. In addition to other duties, Wescott serves as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Leadership, Policy, Adult and Higher Education at NC State University. He serves on numerous national boards and state committees, including the NASAA Executive Board, NC Proprietary Schools Advisory Board, and the Governor's Working Group on Veterans, Service Members and their Families,. Dr. Wescott has written several articles and books on history and higher education topics including the history of the North Carolina Community College System, which was published in 2014. In 2010, he was elected to the North Caroliniana Society for service to his home state and in 2013 to the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels for service to the state of Kentucky. His awards include the NC State University Higher Education Faculty and Graduate Student Association Distinguished Alumni Award 2014-2015), the WAVES Bill Pearson Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award (2015) and the NASAA Lifetime Leadership Award (2017).